SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

CONGRATULATIONS TO DENNIS WELLS, ZS1AU

THE SARL HF PHONE CONTEST ON SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

and

AMSAT SA TO HOLD THE VIRTUAL SPACE SYMPOSIUM ON 22 AUGUST

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin this morning with the news of a silent key.

The SARL learnt that the key of Tony Reumerman, ZS6AOG went silent on 11 November 2019. He was very active in AMSAT SA, the SARL and the early BACAR projects. Tony made major contributions to amateur radio. He introduced packet radio to South Africa and was instrumental in setting up the first digipeaters.

Over a decade ago Tony became cerebrally incapacitated and was taken care of in an institution that specialises in looking after people with these types of problems. He was 80 when he died. When Tony became incapacitated and was unable to continue his amateur radio activity, his family sold his radio equipment and donated the proceeds to the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust which set up a bursary scheme for young people to study and write the Radio Amateur Examination.

Contact was lost after his family emigrated. Ray Webber, ZS6RSW who was involved in setting up the bursary scheme tracked down Tony Reumerman's son who is involved in wildlife conservation in Uganda. He confirmed that his Dad had passed away.

PAUSE

CONGRATULATIONS TO DENNIS, ZS1AU

On Wednesday 26 July 1950, 21 year old Dennis Wells was licenced as ZS1AU. He has used this call sign for 60 years, between 1970 and 1980, Dennis was

ZS4AU. There is an article in the July 2020 Newsletter of the Antique Wireless Association. Download the newsletter from www.awasa.org.za/newsletters/

The President, Council and Members of the SARL, congratulate Dennis on reaching the 70th anniversary of his licence today on Sunday 26 July 2020. Well done Dennis!

FINAL MEMBERSHIP INVOICES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT

Four hundred and eighty two reminder membership invoices for the 2020/21 year have been sent out. The Council has decided to extend the cut-off date for payments by one month. Breaking the payment into 2 to 4 monthly instalments eases the financial burden on our members. Instalments must be arranged and confirmed by sending an e-mail to admin@sarl.org.za. Members that use this option, are requested to be fully paid up by the end of October 2020.

THE SARL HF PHONE CONTEST ON SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

The aim of the SARL HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands. There are three contests during August.

On Sunday 2 August, from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC, you can participate in the HF Phone contest. The exchange is a RS report and a serial number starting at 001. You can participate as a Single Operator Single Band, a Single Operator All Band, a Multi Operator Single Band or a Multi Operator All Band station. Multi operator stations do not have to operate from the same location, each operator can operate from his own station (health regulations.) MOAB stations may have a separate serial number per band.

Each QSO counts 1 point. Each call area (8) worked per band counts 2 points. The same station worked on 80, 40 and 20 metres counts 2 points. The highest score will receive the Silent Keys Memorial SSB Trophy, while the highest score on a single band will receive the Joseph White Trophy. If you wrote the RAE in November 2019, then you stand a chance to win the AKYAB Trophy - the highest score during your first year on phone. There is a trophy for the Youth and the YLs which will be awarded after all three contests have been completed.

Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the downloadable MS Excel spreadsheet. The logs must reach the Contest Committee at zs4bfn@mweb.co.za by no later than 23:59 CAT on Sunday 9 August. Turn to page 35 of the 2020 Blue Book.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

AMSAT SA TO HOLD THE VIRTUAL SPACE SYMPOSIUM ON 22 AUGUST

AMSAT SA will be holding its annual Space Symposium via video conferencing from 10:00 - 15:00 on Saturday 22 August 2020. The symposium was originally scheduled for 11 July but as result of the lockdown and travel restrictions it had

to be postponed. The conference will be fully interactive. For more details visit www.amsatsa.org.za

THE AUGUST 2020 RADIO ZS

The August 2020 issue of Radio ZS will be available for download from the League web site from Monday 27 July. In this issue we look at the Protection of Personal Information Act and regulations around the erection of towers. We discuss the uncertain future of ham radio, what is wrong with ham radio and should we have amateur radio hubs instead of clubs?

To keep you busy there are a number of projects like a compact 20 metre vertical dipole for stealth and portable applications, an antenna tuner, a method of winding coils and a possible project for radio amateurs along the coast. You can read about LunaART, the lunar amateur radio transponder and the design and flight results of the VHF/UHF communication system of the Longjiang lunar microsatellites. In the Museum Piece we look at amateur radio and the Falklands War. And there is more in the August Radio ZS.

CONTEST RESULTS

Twenty three logs were received for the Hammies Sprint held on Sunday 14 June. Where are all the Hammies?

1st the ZS2 Hammies Club, ZS2ZU - 103 points

2nd Jerry van Zijl, ZS2TL - 92 points

3rd Woody Collett, ZS3WL - 84 points

4th Sybrand Cillie, ZS1SJ - 65 points

5th the ZS6 Hammies Club, ZS6ZU - 51 points

The Contest Committee received 47 emails containing 46 logs for the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint held on 15 July. 687 QSOs were made into 311 grid squares during the Sprint.

1st the West Rand ARC - 838 points (20 logs)

2nd the Boland ARC - 548 points (13 logs)

3rd the Bo-Karoo ARC - 410 points (9 logs)

4th the Hibiscus ARC - 138 points (2 logs)

Combined score after 4 legs

1st the West Rand ARC - 3 521 points

2nd the Boland ARC - 3 123 points

3rd the Bo-Karoo ARC - 1 114 points

4th the Hibiscus ARC - 565 points

All the results may be found in HF Happenings 909

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is a single sunspot region visible, but no flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20 and 30 m bands will, especially around sunset, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a Diary of some upcoming events:

2 August – The SARL HF Phone Contest

9 August – The YL Sprint

10 August – The Youth Sprint

15 August – The SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint and Victory in the Pacific Day

16 August – The SARL HF Digital Contest

22 August – the AMSAT SA Virtual Space Symposium and the AGM of the Namibian Amateur Radio League

22 and 23 August – The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

30 August – The SARL HF CW Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

On Wednesday 26 July 1950, 21 year old Dennis Wells was licenced as ZS1AU. He has used this call sign for 60 years, between 1970 and 1980, Dennis was ZS4AU. The President, Council and Members of the SARL, congratulate Dennis on reaching the 70th anniversary of his licence today on Sunday 26 July 2020. Well done Dennis!

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, edited by

Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.